

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 IO-13 BIB-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 W

----- 016228

R 051040Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8652

INFO AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL MILAN

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: PCI WILL HAVE PRESIDENCY OF CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

1. BY AGREEMENT REACHED EVENING JULY 3 AMONG PARTIES OF SO-CALLED "CONSTITUTIONAL ARC" (EXCLUDING ONLY EXTREME RIGHT AND LEFT), ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) WILL HAVE PRESIDENCY OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES AND THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (DC) THAT OF THE SENATE. VICE PRESIDENTS WHO SUBSTITUTE IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PRESIDENTS OF BOTH CHAMBERS WILL BE SOCIALISTS (PSI).

2. PARTIES NAMING THEIR CHOICES FOR THESE OFFICES MORNING JULY 5 AND FORMALITY OF ELECTION IN PARLIAMENT WILL TAKE PLACE LATER IN THE DAY. MOST OBSERVERS GIVE AS CERTAIN THAT FANFANI WILL BE THE DC CHOICE FOR PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE; COMMUNISTS ARE EXPECTED TO CHOOSE FROM NILDE JOTTI, ALESSANDRO NATTA, GIAN CARLO PAJETTA, PETRO INGRAO OR GIORGIO AMENDOLA (LAST HAS REPORTEDLY REMOVED HIS NAME FROM CONTENTION).

3. MEETING AT WHICH AGREEMENT REACHED WAS HELD AT DC INITIATIVE IN DC PARLIAMENTARY OFFICES. THIS IS FIRST TIME IN ALMOST 30 YEARS THAT FORMAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING INCLUDING THE

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COMMUNISTS HAS TAKEN PLACE. PRESIDENCIES OF THE PARLIAMEN-

TARY COMMITTEES WILL BE DIVIDED UP AMONG THE PARTIES THROUGH A SIMILAR PROCEDURE INVOLVING A MEETING OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUPS OF THE INDIVIDUAL PARTIES.

4. LEFT (PCI-PSI) EMPHASIZING "HISTORIC CHARACTER" OF THE AGREEMENT, READ IT AS ABANDONMENT OF A PRIORI PREJUDICES AGAINST COMMUNISTS, AND PROPOSE SAME PROCEDURE FOR FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT PROGRAM. SOCIALIST STANCE IS DEMANDING; PCI'S, AS USUAL, MORE PRUDENTLY AND FLEXIBLY STATED. DC ON THE OTHER HAND IS STRESSING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PARLIAMENTARY AND "POLITICAL" AREAS AND, NEED TO MAINTAIN DISTINCTION BETWEEN MAJORITY AND MINORITY. PARTIES EXCLUDED FROM SO-CALLED "CONSTITUTIONAL ARC" COMMENT BITTERLY AND PROMISE COUNTER INITIATIVES.

5. COMMENT: WITH ORGANIZATION OF SEVENTH PARLIAMENT, GOVERNMENT CRISIS WILL OPEN OFFICIALLY AND PRESENT DC WITH THE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TASK OF TRYING TO FORM A GOVERNMENT EXCLUDING THE PCI. PRESIDENT LEONE IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN HIS ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS WITH PARTY LEADERS DURING THE COURSE OF THE WEEK. AT THIS POINT THE ATTITUDE OF THE SOCIALISTS, WHO HAVE JUST ANNOUNCED POSTPONEMENT OF THEIR ALL IMPORTANT CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR LATER IN THE WEEK, PRECLUDES ANY EASY OR RAPID SOLUTION. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, REPORTS, AGREEMENTS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME10804
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760259-0430
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760790/aaaadbim.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <26 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PCI WILL HAVE PRESIDENCY OF CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES
TAGS: PINT, IT, DC, PCI, ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006